

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PARIS 08272 211926Z

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 /086 W

-----211928Z 027815 /53

P 211845Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 855

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PARIS 8272

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, CG, FR

SUBJ: FRENCH MEDIA REACTIONS TO SHABA INVASION

1. THE FRENCH MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS HAVE RELEGATED INTERNATIONAL EVENTS, INCLUDING THE INVASION OF ZAIRE, TO SECONDARY TREATMENT IN THE FRENCH MEDIA. HOWEVER, GOOD COVERAGE OF THE ZAIRIAN SITUATION AS REPORTED BY THE WIRE SERVICES HAS APPEARED ON THE INSIDE PAGES OF MOST NEWSPAPERS AND RADIO AND TV BROADCASTS HAVE DEVOTED REASONABLE TIME TO IT. THE GOF ANNOUNCEMENT THAT FRANCE WAS GOING TO ACCELERATE ARMS SHIPMENTS ALREADY CONTRACTED APPEARED IN WEEKEND EDITIONS, ACCOMPANIED BY CONTINUING MENTION OF AMERICAN AND BELGIAN MATERIAL SUPPORT FOR KINSHASA.

2. THE MEDIA HAVE RECOUNTED THE HISTORY OF THE KATANGAN GENDARMES AND SPECULATED ON THE ANGOLAN/CUBAN/SOVIET CONNECTION WITH THE INVASION. THEY HAVE ALSO COMMENTED ON THE LACK OF RESISTANCE TO THE INVADERS AND THE WEAKNESSES OF THE ZAIRIAN ARMY.

3. PRO-GOVERNMENTAL LE FIGARO OF MARCH 19-20, FOR EXAMPLE, SAYS: "FACE TO FACE WITH THES PROFESSIONAL SOLDIERS, THE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PARIS 08272 211926Z

ZAIRIAN NATIONAL ARMY APPEARS HARDLY CAPABLE TO MEETING THE CHALLENGE. IT ALSO HAS LESS MOTIVATION, ALL THE MORE SO AS THE POPULATION SEEMS TO BE GIVING A WARM WELCOME TO THE 'INVADERS'... NOT MUCH HAS BEEN DONE TO MAKE THEM MORE PATRIOTIC. ZAIRE'S COMFORTABLE REVENUES HAVE FOR TOO LONG EVAPORATED IN PRESTIGE OPERATIONS AND ILLUSORY NATIONALIZATIONS. NONETHELESS, PRESIDENT MOBUTU TOOK SOME COURAGEOUS MEASURES THESE LAST

MONTHS TO REESTABLISH AN ECONOMIC SITUATION SERIOUSLY COMPROMISED BY THE CLOSING OF THE BENGUELA RAILWAY. AND ABOVE ALL, THE DESTINY OF THE KATANGESE GENDARMES REMAINS THAT OF SERVING AS AN INSTRUMENT, AND IN THIS CASE, THEY ARE WORKING FOR THE USSR AND ITS SATELLITE ANGOLA. ANGOLA HELD, ZAIRE GRAVELY THREATENED, ZAMBIA MORE AND MORE CLOSELY VASSELIZED - WHETHER ONE WISHES IT OR NOT, THE SOVIETS ARE ON THE WAY TO CONTROLLING THE TOTALITY OF ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT SOURCES OF RAW MATERIALS FOR WESTERN EUROPE. "(THAT IS) OF LITTLE IMPORTANCE - THESE COUNTRIES WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPLY US", ANDREW YOUNG PROMISES US. YES, BUT AT WHAT PRICE?"

4. LEFT OF CENTER QUOTIDIEN COMMENTS MARCH 19-20: "...FRENCH ARMS DELIVERIES ARE FOR 17 MIRAGE III-E'S, ALMOST 400 PANHARD ARMORED CARS AND A LARGE TONNAGE OF MUNITIONS, BOMBS, AND ROCKETS. PARIS DENIES, ON THE OTHER HAND, THE PRESENCE OF A FRENCH MILITARY 'ADVISOR'. ACCORDING TO OUR INFORMATION, THERE ARE IN KINSHASA ONLY A FRENCH MILITARY ATTACHE, AS IN ALL OUR EMBASSIES, AND A 'TECHNICAL MISSION' CHARGED EXCLUSIVELY WITH THE MAINTENANCE OF THE MIRAGES. IN THE OPINION OF CERTAIN AFRICAN AFFAIRS SPECIALISTS, THE ZAIRIAN AFFAIR IS ONLY PART OF A MORE IMPORTANT PUZZLE NOW TAKING SHAPE IN AFRICA, AS TESTIFY THE VISITS OF FIDEL CASTRO NOW TAKING PLACE ON THE CONTINENT, ESPECIALLY TO MOGADISCIO AND DAR ES SALAAM..."

5. UNDER THE TITLE "THE CUBAN CHALLENGE" THE INFLUENTIAL COMMENTATOR EDOUARD SABLIER HAD THE FOLLOWING TO SAY MARCH 21 ON RADIO FRANCE INTER: "AT THE PRECISE MOMENT WHEN CARTER IS TAKING MEASURES TO LIFT THE CORDON SAMITAIRE WHICH SURROUNDS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 PARIS 08272 211926Z

CUBA, CASTRO IS ORGANIZING THE BATTLE AGAINST WESTERN INFLUENCE IN AFRICA. HE HAS RANGED OVER THE AFRICAN CONTINENT TO PREPARE THE COMING OF PODGORNYY WHO BEGINS THIS WEEK IN THREE COUNTRIES RALLIED TO MARXISM, TANZANIA, MOZAMBIQUE AND SAMBIA... THE CUBAN OFFENSIVE IS GOING IN EVERY DIRECTION AT THE SAME TIME: NORTH AFRICA, BLACK AFRICA. THE GREAT SOVIET AMBITION IS TO ENCOURAGE THE CREATION OF AN ANTI-IMPERIALIST CAMP AMONG SEVERAL COUNTRIES. CASTRO IS ALREADY BEING CALLED 'THE KISSINGER OF MOSCOW.' THUS ONCE AGAIN THE AMERICANS FIND THEMSELVES FACED WITH A VERY DIFFICULT DILEMMA: OUGHT THEY TO AID A REGIME WHICH CERTAINLY IS NOT A MODEL OF DEMOCRACY (KINSHASA) OR RATHER BY HOLDING BACK IN ORDER TO AVOID A NEW VIETNAM, ALLOW THE RUSSO-CUBANS TO MARK ANOTHER POINT. IF THE WESTERN DEMOCRACIES WAIT EACH TIME TO BE PLACED BEFORE A CHOICE OF THIS SORT, THEIR NEAR OR DISTANT FAILURE APPEARS CERTAIN. THE REMEDY FOR THE AFRICAN SICKNESS IS NOT MILITARY AID OR POSTHUMOUS ADVICE; IT IS THE SUCCESS OF A REAL NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE."

6. COMMUNIST HUMANITE, ON THE OTHER HAND, MAINTAINS MARCH 21

THAT NEITHER PARIS, BRUSSELS NOR WASHINGTON REALLY BELIEVES IN
AN ANGOLAN OR CUBAN INTERVENTION. IT QUOTES SENATOR CLARK'S
WARNINGS ABOUT THE NECESSITY FOR EXTREME PRUDENCE IN ZAIRE
AND PEKING'S DENUNCIATION OF THE INTERVENTION. IN CONCLUSION,
IT QUOTES AN UNNAMED FRENCH DIPLOMAT IN LUANDA AS ADMITTING THAT
THERE ARE NO CUBANS IN ZAIRE AND AS QUALIFYING AS "INTERVENTION"
THE VERSION SPREAD BY "GISCARDIAN TELEVISION".
GAMMON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, INVASIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PARIS08272
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770096-0841
Format: TEL
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770339/aaaabhoa.tel
Line Count: 124
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b8a9d4b4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3046169
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRENCH MEDIA REACTIONS TO SHABA INVASION
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, CG, FR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b8a9d4b4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009